(c) if so, what special measures are being taken by Government to protect the people from the alarming condition of lead poisoning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir. However, the George Foundation did not study truly random samples of the population for determining blood lead levels. The Foundation only attempted to select testing sites that might reflect the range of lead exposure present in Indian cities.

(b) Leaded petrol is one of the main sources of lead pollution in India.

(c) Measures taken by Government to control lead pollution include:

1. Low leaded petrol (0.15 g/l lead) was introduced in June 1994 in four metro cities and in the entire country from 1st January 1997.

2. Unleaded petrol (0.013 g/l lead) was introduced in four metrocities on 1st April 1995 and in capitals of States/Union Territories and other major cities on 1st September 1998.

3. Ban on leaded fuel has been made in the National Capital Territory of Delhi since 1st September, 1998 and in the National Capital region since 1st January 1999.

4. A lead phase out programme in petrol is under implementation in the country. According to this programme unleaded petrol will be introduced in the entire country from 1st February 2000.

Environmental Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority for NCR

1001. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Environmental Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPA) was set up for National Capital Region some time in the past;

(b) if so, with what aims and objectives and how many of those have been achieved;

(c) the reasons for not achieving the remaining aims and objectives;

(d) whether Supreme Court had directed construction of 15 common effluent treatment plants in Delhi, for treating the industrial waste; and

(e) if so, how many of them have been constructed and the reasons for not constructing the remaining ones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government had constitued an Authority known as the Environmental Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority for the National Capital Region on 29.01.1998.

(b) and (c) The Authority had been constituted with the objective of protecting and improving the qualityof the environment and preventing, controlling and abating environmental pollution. The Authority monitors the progress of the action plan drawn up by the Ministry of Environment & Forests on Pollution in Delhi as contained in the 'White Paper on Pollution in Delhi with an Action Plan' issued by the Central Government on 03.12.1997. The Authority is submitting progress reports to the Hon'ble Supreme Court and to the Ministry of Environment and Forests. A focus of the Authority is control of vehicular pollution. The action plans at various stages of planning and implementation. According to the Central Pollution Control Board, there has been a decline in pollution from sulphur dioxide, oxides of nitrogen and suspended particulate matter in Delhi. There has been a significant decline in lead pollution.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The Supreme Court had directed construction of 15 Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) for treating industrial waste. Work has been awarded for construction of three CETPs. The main cause for delay in construction of CETPs relates to issues pertaining to cost sharing.

Air Pollution

1002. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what are Government's plans to improve the air pollution level due to heavy vehicular traffic; and

(b) whether Government intend to make a law by which the cars must be off the road at least once a week, to improve the environment for future generations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) To improve the pollution